

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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R 150957Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 05405

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, CH, LY TW
SUBJECT: ROC REATION TO PRC/LIBYAN RELATIONS
REFS: (A) TAIPEI 05355, (B) PEKING 2493, (C) TRIPOLI 1106

1. DURING AUGUST 15 CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN TO
INTRODUCE NEW DCM I TOUCHED ON THE LIBYAN-PRC COMMU-
NIQUE ANNOUNCING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL AND ASKED WHETHER HE
COULD SHED ANY FURTHER LIGHT ON WHAT THIS MEANS IN
PRACTICAL TERMS FOR THE ROC.

2. SHEN SAID THAT HE HAD NO NEW "INTELLIGENCE REPORTS,"
THAT THE LIBYAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAS NOT YET RETURNED TO
TRIPOLI AND THAT THE LIBYANS HAVE NOT CONTACTED THE ROC
AMBASSADOR TS'AI WHO REMAINS IN THE DARK. REVIEWING THE
HISTORY OF THE RELATIONSHIP, SHEN NOTED

-- DURING THE PERIOD 1959-1969 THE FORMER ROC AMBASSA-
DOR HAD A VERY GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY.
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-- AFTER THE 1969 QUADHAFI COUP AND THE PROCLAMATION
OF A "PEOPLES SOCIALIST REPUBLIC" THE ROC HAD QUALMS
BUT WAS APPROACHED BY THE NEW REGIME TO REMAIN ON AND
TO PROVIDE DOCTORS, NURSES AND ENGINEERS WHICH IT DID.

-- FURTHER ROC QUALMS DEVELOPED IN 1971 FOLLOWING A

PUBLIC SPEECH IN WHICH QUADHAFI UNILATERALLY "RECOGNIZED" PEKING. HOWEVER, HIS REPRESENTATIVE IMMEDIATELY ASSURED THE ROC THAT THIS DID NOT AFFECT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE ROC OR ROC PRESENCE, CONTINUATION OF WHICH WAS DESIRED.

-- ROC HAS NEVER CONSIDERED ITS PRESENCE IN LIBYA TO HAVE MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE, ECONOMICALLY OR POLITICALLY.

-- QUADHAFI PROBABLY MADE THE RECENT MOVE TO GET MORE LEVERAGE VIS-A-VIS MOSCOW.

3. NOTING THE ABSENCE OF THE REFERENCE BY LIBYA IN THE COMMUNIQUE TO PEKING AS THE SOLE LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF CHINA OR TO TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, SHEN SAID THESE GAPS PROBABLY REFLECT THE SELF-IMAGE OF QUADHAFI WHO IS FIERCELY INDEPENDENT AND WHO MAY WELL HAVE INSTRUCTED HIS ENVOY TO PEKING TO GIVE THE PRC A COMMUNIQUE FORMULA ON A TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT BASIS. IN ANY EVENT

-- ROC "WILL NOT PLAY INTO HANDS OF PEKING" BY PULLING OUT VOLUNTARILY.

-- PEKING WILL NOT ESTABLISH AN EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI UNTIL THE ROC EMBASSY CLOSSES.

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-- EVENTUALLY THE LIBYANS WILL PROBABLY SUMMON AMBASSADOR TS'AI AND TELL HIM TO WIND UP. (SHEN DID NOT GO INTO QUESTION OF KEEPING A CONSULATE OR TRADE MISSION.)

-- ROC'S IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS SAFETY OF OVER 300 ROC NATIONALS (200 WORKERS AND THE REST DEPENDENTS).
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